

## **SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**Meeting of Thursday, May 5, 1994  
Room BC-110, 10:00**

**Present:** E. Abouheif, S. Ali, J. Beaudoin (representing E.M. Besso), P. Bird, U. de Brentani, **T. Bui (Chair)**, P. Lightbown, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, J.F. Plamondon, P. Shizgal, C. Suen, K. Thulasiraman

**Guests:** Dr. Marc Renaud and Mr. Claude Magnan

**Regrets:** E. Besso, K. Lipke

**Absent:** A. Homzy, A.B. Ibrahim

### **DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

SRC-05-05-94-A      Agenda for the SRC Meeting of May 5, 1994.

SRC-03-17-94-M      Minutes for the SRC Meeting of March 17, 1994.

SRC-03-17-94-D3      Report of the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities. (Revised on April 28, 1994)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

#### **1.      Approval of Agenda (SRC-05-05-94-A)**

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

**2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of March 17, 1994.**

The Minutes for the March meeting was approved following amendment to page 5, section 7 b), paragraph 1 "On the other hand there are many ways of doing that without abdicating the responsibility of Senate Research Committee in ... system. There has to be a hook-up with the Associate Vice-Rector, Academic (Research), all this to be in the process."

**3. Business arising from Minutes**

Item 7 b) Review of the Reports of Research Centres should be tabled to the next SRC Meeting.

**4. Report of the Chair**

Chair congratulated Dr. P. Shizgal for the Prix Nutrasweet. He also congratulated Dr. Ann English (Chemistry) and Dr. P. Shizgal (Psychology) for their appointments at the Chair of NSERC Grants Selection Committees.

Chair noted that Joanne Beaudoin is replacing E.M. Besso who is attending the CREPUQ (Comité de la Recherche) meeting on his behalf.

- 10 NCE projects have been renewed with a total budget of \$197 million. The four Networks of Centres of Excellence with Concordia involvement which applied for Phase Two funding from the federal government have been successful. The Concordia-affiliated projects are: the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Systems (IRIS), the Canadian Institute for Telecommunications Research (CITR), Micronet-Microelectric Devices, Circuits and Systems for Ultra Large Integration (ULSI) and Neuro Regeneration and Functional Recovery Network. The federal government has allocated \$48 million to support a limited number of additional networks in each of the five areas: trade, competitiveness and sustainability, health research, technology-based learning, advanced technologies (including materials, software engineering) and environment.
- The FRDP is under review, the Committee is in the final stage of completing the report. The FRDP Evaluation Committee intends to submit the final report to the SRC on May 19th.
- The Review of the ILO has also reached the final stage. The Review Committee will submit the report to the Vice-Rector, Academic next week.
- The Code of Ethics: the first stage was to get consultation on the document prepared by the university counsel, Bram Freedman. The second stage was to prepare a new document which takes into account the input from the first stage. The Committee would like to consult all Faculty Councils including the School of Graduate Studies on this document. Dr. Fred Bird, Chair of the Committee has met with the Faculty Council of Engineering and Computer Science and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies.

## 5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

Ms. Joanne Beaudoin gave some highlights about the CAURA conference and reported the following:

- MRC is planning to open up in all areas of health research as opposed to the restrictive planning they had before. There are now going to be two annual competitions for grants but they are not going to put in any new money.
- NSERC is re-examining the redistribution of dollars programme they already have in existence specially among the undergraduate scholarship and they are planning to start a programme in support of technology transfer. They are also changing all their forms, they hope to do this before the fall competition, they are changing to an electronic transmission mode. Researchers will have to buy the software themselves, universities will have to purchase site licences which will be expensive, may be they could but them from their GRG's. The main issue is whether or not some people will be submitting electronically or some would not, this will create a lot of confusion, it seems the decision they made is that they are going to have a target date by which everything will be done electronically. NSERC will merge their General Research Grants and Special General Research Grants fairly soon, probably by this fall.
- President of FCAR addressed a group of people and confirmed that the applications for research centres should definitely be submitted in French.
- Canadian Technology Network: The President of the Association of Canadian Research Administrators is going to keep in touch with the people who are in charge of the network to ensure that when it finally get established, Canadian universities will be represented.
- Claude Corbo, Rector at UQAM, spoke about their increase in Research Funding. One of the interesting things he brought forward in the discussion was that they went to the research community, saw where their strengths were, funded teams with internal funds, they focus on groups where funding does not exist in other universities.
- Graduate Students Supports: MRC has decided that they want to change their method of awarding scholarships, the way they want to do it now is to award the researchers the money, and have the researchers hire the students they would like to support. One of the issues that came up is that whether or not the scholarship will be at all portable to the students once they had it, secondly what came up in discussions later on at the executive meeting, this changes the nature of the competition completely because it will no longer be a competition, there will be not be a competitive element to it. The way it was left CAURA will address a letter to MRC asking them exactly how they plan to maintain any sort of competitive component in this exercise if the researcher is free to disburse scholarship in any way they choose.
- The FCAR Team results are out, we have 6 teams funded, 4 are on the waiting list. The success rate is about 35% and the provincial average is 49%.

## **5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services**

- The nouveaux chercheurs results were mailed out last Friday and they are disappointing. There were 333 applications in Québec, and they funded only 100. We received 8 new awards out of 34 applications, the good news is that 4 of them received equipment money in addition to the operating funds.
- The SSHRC results are out, there were 56 applications, 12 have been awarded and 24 have received 4 A's. Dr. Bui will be sending a letter to the "4a" people with copy to the Deans, asking them to submit a copy of their letter of award which has their ranking level on it in order to distribute some internal funds to some of the "4A" designates.
- The NSERC Strategic and Collaborative programmes were in April. The Collaborative programme was a new one and Concordia has submitted 21 applications to that and 10 applications for the Strategic Grants. The results on these will be announced in the fall.

## **6. Question Period**

None.

## **7. a) Report of the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities (SRC-03-17-94-D3)**

Chair noted that the original document was written by Dr. C. Bertrand as Chair of the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support, Services and Facilities. The report was revised based on the recommendations made at previous meetings. At the last SRC meeting, the Committee approved the document in principle. After consultations with Dr. C. Bertrand and Dr. R. Sheinin, Vice-Rector, Academic, the document has been revised including changes in titles.

After a lengthy discussion, the following recommendations were made:

- Recommendation 3, Recognition of research, scholarship and creative activity, paragraph 2, second sentence: The total number of such appointments at any time should not exceed **one** per cent of the total full-time professoriate.
- Recommendation 3, Recognition of research, scholarship and creative activity, paragraph 2, fourth sentence: The appointments would be acknowledged in a public forum.
- Recommendation 6, Bridge funding for new faculty - It was noted that the FRDP should be used as a training ground for new faculty to write grant proposals before they will apply to external granting agencies. The following sentences should be taken off 'Deans cannot speculate that ... the new faculty member receives funds from the FRDP.'

7. a) **Report of the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities (SRC-03-17-94-D3)**

- A new recommendation should be added with regard to computing resources for the support of research, scholarship and creative activity.

8. **Varia**

Chair thanked Dr. Marc Renaud, Vice-President of Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR) and President of Conseil Québécois de la Recherche Sociale (CQRS) and Mr. Claude Magnan, consultant and university liaison for CQRS for joining the Senate Research Committee to share with us information about the CQRS and CIAR.

Dr. Renaud gave a brief history of the two organisations: CIAR and CQRS.

Since its incorporation in 1982 CIAR is a non-profit research organisation. Its mandate is to build high quality research programmes in frontier areas of research that have potential economic, social and/or intellectual importance in Canada; to create research programmes based on a network approach that keeps talented researchers in their institutions; to foster research co-operation between Canadian scientists and those at major institutions in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Japan. CIAR has networked over 160 talented individuals in 10 programmes:

Social Sciences:

- Programme in Population Health focuses on how the determinants of health (the social, physical and biological environments) impact on an individual's susceptibility to disease.
- Programme in Economic Growth and Policy aims to understand how ideas and innovation determine economic growth and the implication for future policy
- Programme in Law and Determinants of Social Order impacts on the whole area of human development and well-being.
- Programme in Human Development

Natural Sciences:

- Programme in Cosmology
- Programme in Evolutionary Biology
- Earth System Evolution
- Programme in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- Programme in Superconductivity
- Programme in Science of Soft Surfaces and Interfaces

## 8. Varia

CQRS is a granting agency under the tutelage of the Ministry of health and social services, it was created in the 1970's. They decided to bring together the social services and network services of the Ministry with the local organisations, the CLSC's. They also decided to create a granting agency so as to give tools to the researchers in the social and medical sciences. The main areas of research grants are family, psycho-social aspects of aids, aging population, violence, modes of social integration and new aspects of social solidarity. They will be announcing a new programme in a few months, the Senior Fellowship Programmes, they will finance part of the salary of the post-doctoral researcher.

C. Suen noted that over the years he has met with different people of CIAR and it seems to him that it is a very close network between McGill/Toronto/University of British Columbia. He thinks Concordia has very strong and dynamic group and wondered if Concordia could participate in the area of robotics.

Dr. Renaud suggested that we should write to the President, Mr. Mustard, to invite him to visit Concordia University so as to give him the chance to meet, interview the researchers and to get a feel in the area of research. CIAR works on excellence, the criteria to take somebody is that the person has to be excellent and internationally known.

CIAR never finances research, it only finances the researchers, it takes them off the teaching load.

Chair will invite Ms. Monique Charboneau, President of CEFRIO next fall.

## 9. Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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